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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Proposal for a DCI Discussion/Dinner on
Soviet Nationalities Issues

79-237

FROM:

for Academic Relations, NFAC

EXTENSION

NO.

NFAC # 0306-79

DATE

18 January 1979

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

DD/NFA

19 JAN 1979

24 JAN 1979

rub

This is an addition to the usual steps, necessary because the Director has not yet approved having this Discussion/Dinner. Please expedite.

2.

3.

DDCI

11 JAN 1979

4.

DCI

Rec'd
26 Jan. 79

25 JAN 1979

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NFAC

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79-237

18 January 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA : Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment 

FROM : Coordinator for Academic Relations, NFAC

SUBJECT : Proposal for a DCI Discussion/Dinner on Soviet Nationalities Issues

1. Action Requested: Approval of this proposal to schedule a Discussion/Dinner on the above subject. The date of Thursday, 22 February, has been set aside on your calendar for this purpose.

2. The subject of Soviet nationalities has not been submitted to you before but it is an obvious one that we are well prepared to organize. It is of course the main concern of our scholar-in-residence, I propose to leave most of the planning to him and to have him introduce the subject on the evening appointed. I have also asked him to suggest one or two participants from the academic community, preferably with perspectives somewhat different or even opposed to his own. is agreeable and is already thinking of guests we might invite, both from outside and from other agencies of the Government.

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4. Our discussion might be focussed on any two or three of a number of issues associated with the nationalities. For example:

(1) Population changes and their gross effects. While the Great Russian population of the Soviet Union is growing very slowly and may be approaching stability, the minorities, especially the Muslim minorities, are growing much more rapidly. The Great Russians are probably already less than 50% of the total population of the USSR, and Muslims may account for 30% of the total by the end of the century. Eventually, this is bound to affect the sense of security and the self-confidence of the dominant element in the society. By the same token, it will encourage the national assertiveness of the minorities. The stability of the Soviet system may be adversely affected.

(2) Meantime, there are more immediate effects. Increasingly the new manpower available to the Soviet military and to Soviet industry is of minority and relatively backward origins. In time, the Soviets may be facing the same problem that we have with our AVF: a disproportion of minority elements owing not only to the fact that more than 50% of the conscripts will be coming from minority nationalities but also to the fact that the more privileged elements will, to the extent they can, crowd into the more promising jobs in the economy.

(3) At the same time, there is a development problem related to the imbalanced population growth. Increasingly, Soviet industry will be dependent upon labor and managerial talents available only from the minorities if its current and past rate of growth is to be sustained. Unless the minority nationalities can be brought up to the level of the Great Russians in education and the various skills demanded by advanced development, a dampening of industrial expansion is inevitable.

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5. From these items we can certainly put together a discussion menu that will prove attractive to senior State Department officers and Defense intelligence and manpower managers.

6. Recommendation: That you indicate your approval of a DCI Discussion/Dinner, Thursday, 22 February, on the subject "Soviet Nationalities Issues," so that planning may proceed. Please indicate your approval or disapproval of the proposal to include among our invited experts.

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APPROVED:



Director of Central Intelligence

29 JAN 1979

Date

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DISAPPROVED:

Director of Central Intelligence

Date